

**E.J. ALPIN & ASSOCIATES**

January 9, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

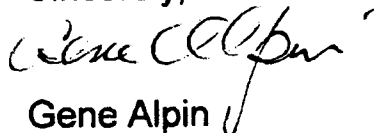
Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am writing this letter to take advantage of the Tunney Act, and have my opinion go on record. I was not in favor of any litigation against the Microsoft Corporation in the first place, but since a settlement has finally been reached, we need to move on. The settlement is as fair as it could be, and I wish to see no further legal action taken against Microsoft.

There are still nine states that are continuing with litigation against the Microsoft Corporation, and they are just wasting their budgets and angering their citizens. I was relieved to see that the Department of Justice and Microsoft could agree to terms, but wish it never had to come to that in the first place. The settlement was actually reached after extensive negotiations with a court-appointed mediator, and Microsoft agreed to terms that extend way beyond what was at issue in the lawsuit.

A settlement has been reached and it is time to put this behind us.

Sincerely,



Gene Alpin

cc: Senator Rick Santorum